

I voted Yes on H.R. 273, to eliminate the 2013 statutory pay adjustment for federal employees.

The bill would continue a freeze on Congressional and federal civilian employee across-the-board pay raises through December 31, 2013. Under current law, the pay freeze on federal civilian employees and officials including members of Congress, the President's Cabinet and the Vice President would expire before the end of the year. The pay freeze in this bill does not apply to military and active duty personnel.

This legislation is necessary because on December 27, 2012 the President issued an Executive Order granting federal employees including Members of Congress an across-the-board pay raise regardless of merit. It is important to note that H.R. 273 does not prevent employees from receiving bonuses, merit based raises, promotions, or tenure based pay increases, but rather prevents a planned across-the-board increase.

Additionally, this bill fully implements a recommendation of the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission on debt reduction which called for a three-year federal pay freeze. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 273 would save approximately \$11 billion over ten years.

I supported this bill because I have never supported a pay raise for members of Congress and do not now. Federal civilian employees do fine work and I appreciate their commitment to public service. While I do support merit-based pay increases and promotions for federal civilian employees, as this bill allows, I believe it would be fiscally irresponsible to grant across-the-board raises for government employees and members of Congress at this time of high deficits and debt.

The bill was approved by a bipartisan vote of 261 – 154.